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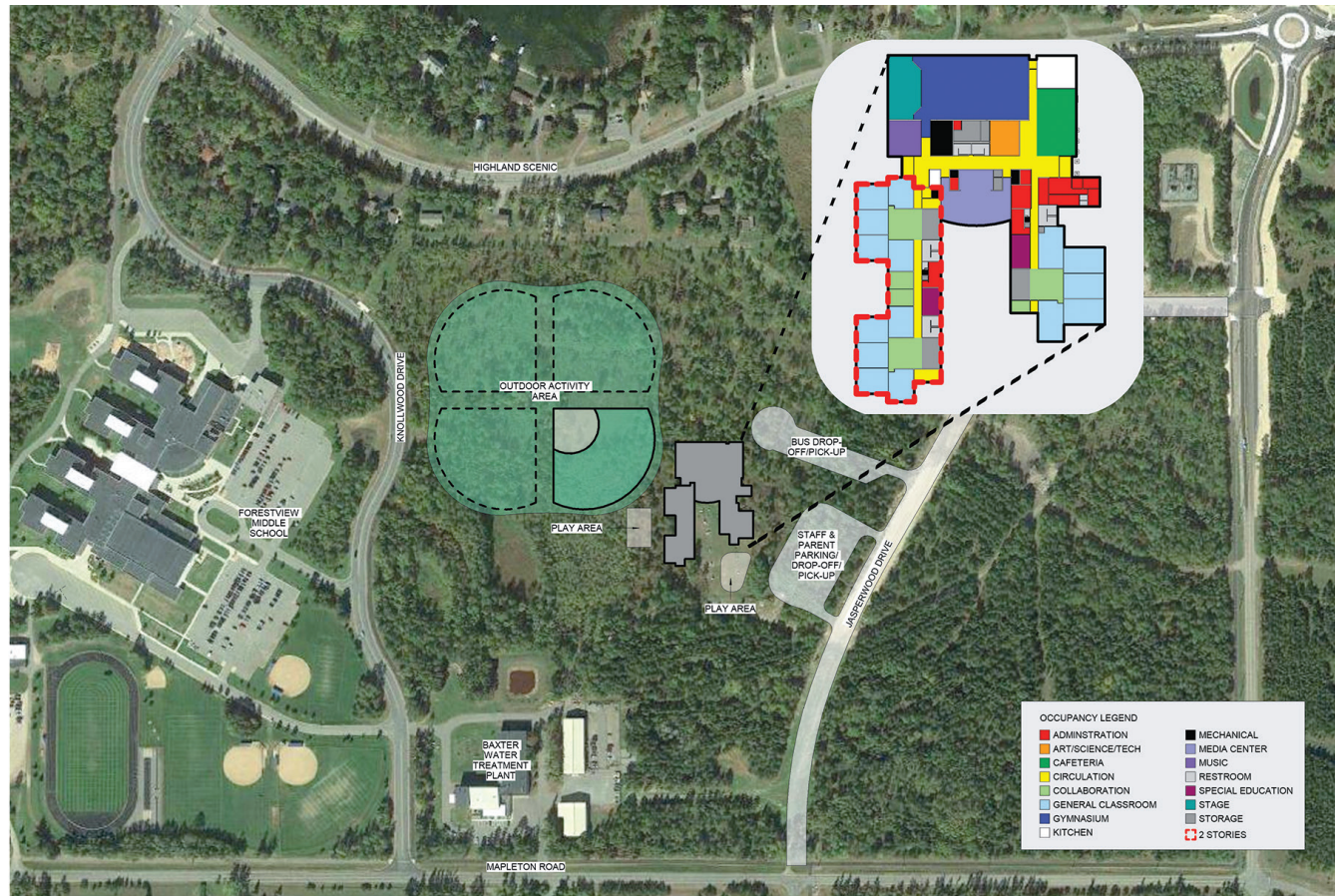
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Proposed new Baxter elementary school site identified



Brainerd Public Schools announced today that it has identified a site for the proposed elementary school to be constructed in Baxter. Currently owned by the City of Baxter, the site is located south of Highland Scenic Drive, directly east of Forestview Middle School. "The proposed site has many positive attributes for the new elementary school and provides future flexibility and expansion opportunities for both the school district and the City of Baxter", said Laine Larson, Superintendent of Brainerd Public Schools. "Factoring the expected

roadway improvements, the overall estimated cost of the proposed site is less than the school district's existing property and allows us to preserve the school forest as a natural resource for our students and community." The school's district plans are to utilize the recent investment in roadway improvements and the roundabout intersection at Highland Scenic Drive and Mapleton road to safely and efficiently move traffic to and from the new school. Also in the plans are connections to the existing trail system that will provide safe pedestrian travel

throughout the City of Baxter. As part of the comprehensive facilities plan, the current Baxter Elementary School would be repurposed to become an early childhood education center, better utilizing the existing building and its smaller parcel of land. District and City officials have already begun talks regarding the proposed site for the new school and the terms of a formal agreement are pending the outcome of the special election. Following more than three years of research, gathering public input, and review and analysis, a comprehen-

Farm Bureau scholarships

The 2018 Aitkin-Carlton County Farm Bureau Student Scholarship Program provides two \$500 educational scholarships for students involved in agriculture-related education programs. Applicants must be a senior in high school or already enrolled in a post high school ag-related education or management program. Their family must be a current Aitkin-Carlton County Farm Bureau member. Scholarship details and applications have been sent to area high school guidance counselors. Deadline for ap-

plications is April 19, 2018. Contact Debbie Chute at 218-927-3987 or jdchutemn@gmail.com for program details and any questions on how to apply. Farm Bureau membership is open to all persons interested in agriculture. The next meeting of the Aitkin-Carlton County Farm Bureau will be on April 24 at 8:00 p.m. at the 40 Club Restaurant in Aitkin; all interested persons are invited to attend. For more information, contact Debbie Chute, at 218-927-3987 or email jdchutemn@gmail.com

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Cuyuna Lakes Community Garden



but gardeners must provide their own plants, seeds, and garden tools. Gardeners will likely need to add a bag or two of enriched garden soil as the existing dirt will have settled over the winter and will need amendments for better plant growth.

garden officially opens for planting. Paid members may plant earlier if they desire, but the water will not be hooked up until danger of freezing is past.

Last year's gardeners may sign up for the same bed(s) they used last year if they are returning for another gardening season.

• June 2 and beyond – a third or fourth bed may be requested for free by any current garden member. We do not want to leave any beds unattended because they revert to weeds.

Important dates:

• April 23 – Garden Kick-Off Open House – stop in at the Hallett Community Center between the hours of 10 a.m. to noon, or 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. to learn more about the community garden, to receive vegetable gardening tips, and to sign up and pay for a bed(s).

To reserve a bed, come to the Open House or see Sandy at the Hallett Community Library on the dates listed above. If you have any questions, call Sandy at 218-

• April 18, April 25, or May 2 – Returning gardeners can see Sandy at the Hallett Library from 4-6 p.m. to request and pay for beds.

May 3-June 2 – unclaimed beds are open for rental by anyone in the community. May 15 – the community



Planting season is just around the corner at the Cuyuna Lakes Community Garden located behind the Hallett Community Center. Fifty-four raised beds are rented to interested gardeners in the Cuyuna Lakes area. Rental fees are \$20 for one 4 ft. x 12 ft. raised bed or \$35 for two. New this year, thanks to grants from the Hallett Charitable Trust, CrowWing Energized (SHIP), and Minnesota Power, all 54 beds are now 20 inches high. Construction was completed in the late fall of 2017.

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READER RIBBETS

Proud “elitist” responds to elitist

I am proud to be the “shallow elitist” with the narrow mindedness of “self-promoted wisdom.”

Let it be understood, I have no stake in the [Crosby] rental ordinance, nor do I own rental property. I do understand the challenges of representing people and a community.

The attitude of fixing things that are not broken and pretending to be the savior of the people, is the very definition

of elitist. Elitists think they shouldn't be challenged, and think they should function on behalf of others, when they have not been asked. Taking action, when action is not required, is stupid, you can't fix stupid, you can only challenge it, the citizens of Crosby obviously don't have any protection from it. I purpose the City of Crosby implement an ordinance regulating estate sales, flower shops, antique stores,

bars, cafes, and even garage sales. Permits to function need to be issued monthly, the cost, \$75. If conducted without a permit, \$500 fine. See, I can look at things from “multiple perspectives” and manage to see the stupidity of my own words. Good thing I'm not leading the community to implement those ordinances.

Kelly Avelsgard
Tailored Educational Services
Deerwood

Highway 6 reconstruction project at Emily open house April 9

Emily area residents, businesses and motorists are invited to attend an open house to learn about a major construction project that will reconstruct Highway 6 through Emily in 2018.

The public open house will be held Monday, April 9, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at Emily City Hall, 39811 Highway 6.

Open house attendees will be able to learn about the project's construction details, planned traffic changes and southbound Highway 6 detour route, view large layouts of the project, speak with project staff, get questions answered and take home project information.

The Highway 6 Emily re-

construction project will reconstruct approximately one mile of Highway 6, reconstruct the Highway 6/County Road 1 intersection, install a new underground storm sewer system and water retention pond, new curb, gutter and sidewalk, and improve segments of local roads.

Ruttger's hires students through Brandon Project

In a partnership with the Brainerd School District's Special Education Department, Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge will hire a handful of students through a new workplace transition program called the Brandon Project.

The Brandon Project is a program that helps students to transition into the workforce by providing job training specific to the resort industry, transportation to and from the resorts, and on-the-job supervision.

Ruttger's is one of two area resorts who will participate in the Brandon Project and will hire a total of up to seven Brandon Project students. The

students will work in both housekeeping and in various capacities in the kitchen, including dishwashing.

“Ruttger's is thrilled to partner with the Brandon Project,” Ruttger's Human Resources Director Paula Soderberg said. “For us it's a major win-win. We get much-needed, high-quality help in critical areas of our operation, plus we get to support a great program.”

As part of the Brandon Project, school space at Brainerd High School's South Campus was transformed into the Brandon Project Training Academy - replicas of guest rooms and a kitchen similar

to Ruttger's so the students can be trained in a realistic setting.

STARS Transition Coordinator Teresa Christiansen and other staff from the Brainerd School District have been training the students throughout the school year. She said that the students have done very well and will be ready to begin work when the school year ends in June.

“It's exciting to see the potential for the students and their families,” Christiansen said.

The Brandon Project was the brainchild of Director of Special Education (Paul Bunyan Education Cooper-

Great River Strings concert to feature a dinner and dance program

The Great River Strings Orchestra will present a Gala Fundraiser at the C-I Pub's Pine Room in Ironton on Saturday, April 21. Beginning with a social hour at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m., the orchestra will reproduce the prom scene from the 1980's film Back To The Future for its program at 7 p.m. The music of J. S. Bach will lead into music from the film, and the audience will be

encouraged to hit the dance floor and “shake a leg” while the orchestra performs dance hits from the 1950's, 60's, and beyond. “Doc” Brown and Marty McFly are among the celebrities expected to appear. Guests are encouraged to dress up (prom attire encouraged) and put on their “dancing shoes” for this one of a kind event. Tickets are \$35 per person and may be ordered at the C-I Pub in

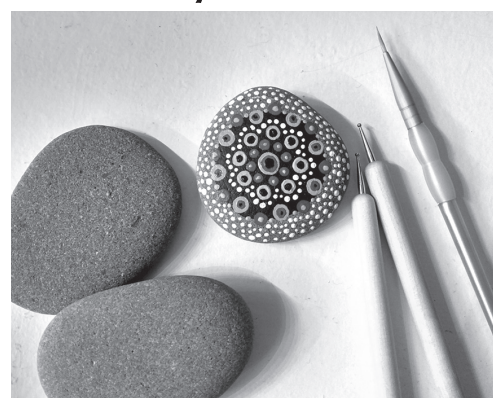
Ironton, The Beanery in Aitkin, or through any orchestra member.

Executive Director's Mary Aulie, 218-839-1085, and Lynn Foote, 218-678-3034 are also available to take your ticket order or answer any questions you might have. Come and take a ride in the famous “Delorean Time Machine” as the Great River Strings Orchestra takes us “Back To The Future”.

Second Saturday at Crossing Arts

Crossing Arts Kids art will have two sessions on painted mandala stones on Sat., April 14 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and noon to 1:30 p.m.

Using dotting tools and fine brushes, participants will learn how to make a mandala pattern on smooth stones. The class is geared towards kids 5 to 13, but any age (even adult “kids at heart”) are welcome to attend. Younger



artists will require an adult helper. Pre-registration is now required. Call Crossing Arts at 218-833-0416 to enroll. Class size is limited. A \$3 per child/\$5 per family materials donation is requested but no child will be turned away due to need. This class is sponsored by the Altrichter Family.

Aitkin-based artist Duane Barnhart is the featured artist for April. Meet Duane on Saturday from a.m. to noon and learn about his technique, the variety of mediums he works in, and enjoy a collection of his watercolor paintings. Light refreshments will be

served.

“Young at Art” a colorful exhibit of artwork from area school children will be on display in The Crossing Arts Gallery.

All activities are held at The Crossing Arts Alliance's new location at 711 Laurel Street in downtown Brainerd. Call 218-833-0416 or visit

crossingarts.org for more information.

Fish Fry

Fish Fry at Light of the Cross Lutheran Church, Garrison, on Fridays, April 6, 13 and 20, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Menu includes Alaskan Pollack, mashed potatoes, vegetable, coleslaw, bread, beverages, and dessert. Cost is \$9 for adults; \$5 for children 5-12; and free for children under 5. The church is located two blocks west of the Family Foods in Garrison. All are welcome!!

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Be aware of bears this spring; DNR lists tips for avoiding conflicts

Anyone living near bear habitat is reminded to be aware of bears this spring and check their property for food sources that could attract bears.

"Bears are roaming around now with the lack of snow and warmer weather so interactions with people are going to start in central Minnesota which includes the southern part of the bear range," said Eric Nelson, wildlife animal damage program supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. As bears emerge from hibernation, their metabolism gradually ramps up and they will begin looking for food at a time when berries and green vegetation can be scarce. Pet food, livestock feed, bird seed, compost or garbage can attract bears. Attracting bears to yards can lead to property damage and presents dangers to bears. Only black bears live in the wild in Minnesota. They usually are shy and flee when encountered. Never approach or try to pet a bear. Injury to people is rare, but bears are potentially dangerous because of their size, strength and speed.

The DNR does not relocate problem bears. Relocated bears seldom remain where they are released. They may return to where they were caught or become a problem somewhere else. The DNR offers some tips for avoiding bear conflicts. **Around the yard** Do not leave food from barbecues and picnics outdoors, especially overnight. Coolers are not bear-proof. Replace hummingbird feeders with hanging flower baskets, which are also attractive to hummingbirds. Eliminate birdfeeders or hang them 10 feet up and 4 feet out from the nearest trees. Use a rope and pulley system to refill birdfeeders, and clean up spilled seeds. Where bears are a nuisance, birdfeeders should be taken down between now and Dec. 1. Store pet food inside and feed pets inside. If pets must be fed outdoors, feed them only as much as they will eat. Clean and store barbecue grills after each use. Store them in a secure shed or garage away from windows and doors. Pick fruit from trees as soon as it's ripe and collect fallen fruit immediately. Limit compost piles to grass, leaves and garden clippings, and turn piles regularly. Do not add food scraps. Harvest garden produce as it matures. Locate gardens away from forests and shrubs that bears may use for cover. Use native plants in landscaping whenever possible. Clover and dandelions will attract bears. Elevate bee hives on bear-proof platforms or erect properly designed electric fences. Do not put out feed for wildlife (like corn, oats, pellets or molasses blocks). **Garbage** Store garbage in bear-resistant garbage cans or dumpsters. Rubber or plastic garbage cans are not bear-proof. Keep garbage inside a secure building until the morning of pickup. Properly rinse all recyclable containers with hot water to remove all remaining product. Store recyclable containers, such as pop cans, inside. Store garbage that can become smelly, such as meat or fish scraps, in a freezer until it can be taken to a refuse site or picked up by refuse collector. Take especially smelly or rotting garbage as soon as possible to your local refuse facility so it can be buried. People should always be cautious around bears. If bear problems persist after cleaning up food sources, contact a DNR area wildlife office for advice. For the name of the local wildlife manager, contact the DNR Information Center at 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367, or visit mndnr.gov/contact/locator.html. For more about living in bear habitat, visit mndnr.gov/livingwith_wildlife/bears.

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Videography nominated for Emmys



Pictured from left are this year's Videography students: Back row: Mitch Anderson, Emily Skelton, Brandon Wetherbee Front row: Christian Ganz, Sarah Nelson

The Central Lakes College Videography Department was nominated for three Upper Midwest Emmy Awards by the National Association of Television Arts & Sciences for videos shot during 2017. The Upper Midwest division consists of colleges and high schools from a 5-state region, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin. CLC's three nominated films are:

- "Great River Arts" Category: Arts & Entertainment, Nicholas Koester, from Little Falls, - Producer/Director/Writer/Videographer/Editor
- "Into the Booming Grounds" Category: Light News Sarah Nelson, from Rochester, - Producer/Director/Writer/Videographer/Editor

- "MTTIA, Come to Brainerd!" Category: Commercial Mitchell Anderson, Emily Skelton, Daniel Hegstad, Brandon Wetherbee, Christian Ganz, Megan Schmidt, Pete Peterson, David Mumbleau, Nick Groshong, The winners of each category will be announced at the Upper Midwest Emmy Awards Banquet on April 13.

Artwork from area schools on display



Crossing Arts, will be professionally framed and matted at the conclusion of the exhibit, and will be on display in the Brainerd YMCA for a year. This exhibit is made possible by the support of sponsors, the Raboin & Francis Law Firm and Brainerd Elks Lodge #615. Framing assistance is provided by Picture Perfect Framing Studio.

The Crossing Arts Alliance announces the opening of Young at Art, a colorful visual art exhibit featuring the work of area school children. Teachers from around the lakes area have chosen works to be on display. The exhibit runs April 6 - April 27. An opening reception for this exhibit is set for Friday, April 6, 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. at their new location at 711 Laurel Street in downtown Brainerd. This popular exhibit is free and open to the public. Ten works, selected by

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